

LIFESTYLES

HAWAII MARINE B SECTION

FEBRUARY 4, 2005

CHINESE NEW YEAR



Members of the 2005 Miss Chinatown Hawaii court, (from left) First Princess Mindy Chen, Queen Tracy Tom and Second Princess Jaclyn Lee, greeted the crowd at Saturday's Chinese New Year celebration in Chinatown.

Rooster to usher out Year of the Monkey on Feb. 9

**Story and Photos
By Susana Choy**
Lifestyles Editor

New Year's celebrations, consisting of live entertainment, food and craft booths, fireworks and lion dances.

Chinese New Year is right around the corner so it's just about time to kick out the Wood Monkey and welcome in the Wood Rooster.

In Hawaii, that means attending a couple of block parties, purchasing numerous Rooster-themed items, eating plenty of food with friends and family, and enjoying diverse cultural entertainment from lion and dragon dances to folk songs and even a comedic show. All this is jammed into the two weeks prior to New Year's Day.

But wait, why do the Chinese celebrate a different New Year? For the unschooled, it's basically because the traditional Chinese calendar follows the cycles of the moon, with one cycle lasting 60 years. In Chinese astrology, this 60-year cycle is broken down to five 12-year cycles where each year is associated with an animal: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig. Breaking it down a bit further, each of these animals is paired with an element; there are five total: metal, earth, water, wood and fire. The ruling animal of your birth year, supposedly, rules your personality and lifestyle as well as the year itself.

Monkey years typically promise novelty, trickery, surprises, deception and unpredictability. In the past Monkey years, the world has seen a number of devastating natural disasters including the Mount St. Helen's explosive eruption in 1980; hurricane Andrew in 1992, which still stands as the most destructive hurricane on record in the United States; hurricane Iniki in 1992, which devastated Kauai; and a tsunami in the Flores region of Indonesia, also in '92, which left more than 2,000 people dead, 500 injured and 90,000 homeless. This past year proved to be just as unpredictable. However, Rooster years promise to "straighten up and put life back in order, including reconstructing, rebuilding and beginning from scratch," according to www.chineseastrology.com.

Celebration of the coming Chinese New Year, on Feb. 9, has already begun and Chinatown is busier than ever. Themes of happiness, wealth and good fortune, and longevity abound in just about everything. Especially during this auspicious time of year, people from around the island flock to Chinatown to purchase New Year gifts and auspicious decorations for their home and offices and special sweetmeats for the New Year. Many also head down to enjoy the

Traditional Chinese assigned symbolism to many things. As such, fireworks and lion dances, used to scare away evil spirits and ward off bad luck, are an integral part of the celebration. The color red has long been considered good luck and noise is used to scare away evil spirits. Each lion is usually played by two martial arts practitioners and are accompanied by loud gongs, cymbals and drums. They are often invited to enter businesses and homes to chase away bad spirits and clear the way for good luck to enter. The act of feeding them money is an additional practice to ensure the "feeder" is brought good luck and fortune for the New Year.

Food also plays a large part during this period. Not only does it bring family and friends together to renew their bonds, but also what is eaten is also important. For example, a vegetarian dish called "jai," or monk's food, contains many ingredients that signify many positive attributes to the Chinese. The long, unbroken noodles signify long life; lotus seeds denote having many male offspring; and dried bean curd represent the fulfillment of wealth and happiness.

The entertainment continues this weekend at Chinatown. Food booths will line Fort Street Mall tonight from 5 to 10 p.m. and around 6:30 p.m., more than 10 lions will perform at the Chinese Chamber of Commerce at the corner of 42 N. King St. and Smith Street. Beginning 9 a.m., Saturday, Chinatown will be closed to vehicular traffic as vendors set up food and merchandise booths along Maunakea Street. A parade that features more lion dance performances, martial arts demonstrations, and music, will begin at Richards Street and march along Hotel Street toward River Street.

Today and Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., at the Chinatown Cultural Plaza Shopping Center, 100 N. Beretania St., there will be more food, arts, crafts and flower booths; cultural song and dance performances; lion and dragon dances; and martial arts demonstrations. On Saturday night, the 2005 Narcissus and Miss Chinatown Queens will grace the stage. Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann will appear and give his New Year blessings, and local comedian Frank DeLima will perform.

All events are free and the public is welcome to attend. For more information about the Chinatown celebrations, call Wen at 533-3181. For information about the Cultural Plaza celebrations, call Albert at 779-8822.



Right — 3-year-old Anthony Riley, enthralled with his new miniature lion replica, sits astride his father, Steven Riley's, shoulders as they stroll through Maunakea Street.



Above, top right — Visitors peruse through the wares of a vendor's booth on Maunakea Street during Saturday's celebration of the upcoming Chinese New Year. The celebration packed the area with vendors and visitors alike who enjoyed martial arts demonstrations, lion dances, and food when they weren't busy browsing through the many New Year's and other arts and craft products.

Right — A Chinese scroll depicts the character for good fortune written in a hundred different styles.

SM&SP offers 48 Pro Bowl packages

Edward Hanlon V
MCCS Marketing

“What’s more American than tailgating a professional football game?” mused Dino Leonard, the Single Marine & Sailor Program acting coordinator.

Though his question remains unanswered, program officials think they have found an answer to the question, “What are you doing for the Pro Bowl?” That answer is the SM&SP Pro Bowl Tailgate Party Package, to be held game-day, Feb. 13, beginning at 11 a.m.

The package includes end-zone tickets, transportation, food, giveaways, and a full day of all-star fueled football.

“It is visibly an excellent value because it includes everything,”

added Leonard. “All you have to do is show up with your game-face on, ready for some football.”

Patrons should meet at the Kahuna’s Recreation Center at 9:45 a.m. Bus transportation will depart from the Recreation Center at 10:30 a.m.

The cost is only \$50, and the program is open to all unaccompanied Marines and Sailors, E-5 and below.

“We blanket-purchased the seats, so it will be easier for larger groups to sit with each other,” said Leonard.

Marines and Sailors are encouraged to purchase their tickets now. Space is limited to the first 48, and tickets are currently being sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets may be purchased at the SM&SP office, located in Kahuna’s Recreation Center, Building 1629.

TAMC calls for blood donors

Blood demand increases as donor pool shrinks

Press Release
Tripler Army Medical Center Public Affairs Office

HONOLULU — While the demand for blood has increased, Tripler Army Medical Center’s Blood Donor Center has a smaller donor pool to work with, according to Capt. Michael Bukovitz, its director. The center is now conducting an awareness campaign to increase its donor pool on Oahu.

“We highly encourage service members, retirees, military family members, and Department of Defense civilian employees to donate, and to donate more often,” Bukovitz said.

Demand has increased, because medical advances have increased the kinds and frequency of lifesaving procedures which require more blood supplies. Ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan are also straining the Armed Services Blood Program, of which Tripler is one of 24 centers worldwide. Service members wounded and injured in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom now receive about 355 units of blood a week from the Armed Services Blood Program.

What’s not well known is that since the Vietnam War, the U.S. Armed Services have relied solely on the Armed Services Blood Program for their blood needs. Hawaii’s location in the middle of the Pacific also creates a unique challenge. Because blood is perishable, the Tripler pro-

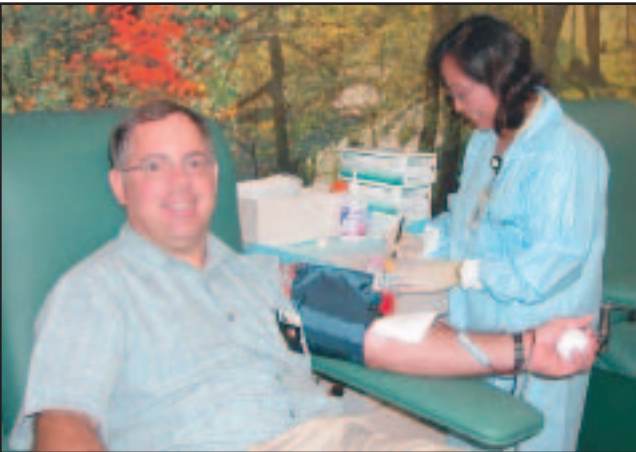


Photo Courtesy of Leslie Ozawa
David Trojan is assisted by Tripler Army Medical Center Blood Donor Center’s Racquel Duran in making another blood donation. Trojan, a civilian working here, has donated four pints of blood in the past year and was honored for his participation by Tripler’s Commanding General Maj. Gen. Gale S. Pollock at a recognition ceremony Jan. 14.

gram cannot make up shortages by relying on other military blood donation centers on the mainland that are too many miles and hours away. Tripler also doesn’t rely on the well-known Blood Bank of Hawaii program.

Because some military and DoD personnel have recently deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, they may not be able to donate blood. Check with Tripler’s blood donor center for more details about who is and who is not eligible to donate. For more information, call 433-6195.

MARINE CORPS COMMUNITY SERVICES

WWW.MCCSHAWAII.COM

Possibilities in Paradise



Kahuna’s Bar & Grill

254-7660/7661

Bosses’ Night — What better way to show some appreciation than by bringing your boss out tonight for some camaraderie and refreshments. Stop by the club between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Mardi Gras Party — This bash is as close to the real thing as it gets. Tonight, starting at 4:30 p.m. and running all the way to 1 a.m., there will be a costume contest, Mardi Gras beads, and live entertainment featur-

ing the Mississippi Full Steppers and Sugah Daddy. Authentic Cajun/Creole food will be available, so be sure not to miss out on this once-a-year bash.

Super Bowl Party — From 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday, Kahuna’s Super Bowl Party will feature logo glass specials, 25-cent wings, raffles, and a full menu. For a non-alcoholic good time, Kahuna’s Recreation Center will show the game at the Theater. Game time begins at 1 p.m.

Hot Country Nights — Country never sounded better. Wednesday night, DJ Stan will play country hits from yesterday and today. Bull riding will also be available. This is the perfect set-up for your weekly country fix. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Live Music — Slug returns to Kahuna’s. Friday, beginning at 10 p.m. The band will provide entertainment while the Bar & Grill provides the grub.

Staff NCO Club

254-5481

“Oldie-wed” Game — Come ready to have a rollicking good time as long-time married couples reveal how much they know, or don’t, about each other.

Beginning tonight at 7 p.m., come prepared to enjoy the free pupus until 8 p.m. and food from the grill until 9 p.m.

Super Bowl Party — The big game is on the big screen in the Rocker Room Sunday. The club opens at 11 a.m., and game time is 1 p.m. The cost is only \$5 for members and \$8 for non-members.

The pupu menu includes hot wings, hoagies, chips and veggie platters. There will also be half-time prize drawings.

Officers’ Club

254-7650/7649

Super Bowl Party — Watch the game Sunday in the comfort of the club and in the company and camaraderie of your friends. Tickets are \$12 for members and \$14 for non-members. The club opens at 11 a.m., and kickoff is at 1 p.m.

The perfect Super Bowl pupus will be available including a fajita and nacho bar, veggies, chili and more.

To sign up, contact the club.

Seafood Buffet — Happening only once each month, this buffet will keep you coming back. Come Thursday from 5:30 to 8 p.m., and enjoy a wide selection of seafood while taking on the unparalleled views of the Klipper Golf Course from the Dining Room.

Members pay \$23.50; non-members pay \$26.95.

Valentine’s Day Comes Early — Let the romance begin by taking your sweetheart to an elegant dinner Friday, Feb. 12 and 14. The special menu will feature an entrée choice of Crispy Duck a la Chinatown, Ossobucco Milanese or Fresh Catch of the Day Cordon Bleu. Cost is \$39.75 per couple.

All Hands

Auto Auction — The Auto Skills Center holds an auto auction on vehicles it acquires and fixes up to working condition. Interested parties can inspect these cars, trucks or SUVs and place their bids in the ballot box inside the Auto Skills Center.

If you’re in the market for a new vehicle, don’t pay those high prices. Visit the Auto Skills Center to see if it has just the deal you’ve been looking for.

Bidding on the vehicles below begins Monday and closes Feb. 7.

| Year | Make | Model | Min. Bid |
|------|-------|----------|----------|
| 1987 | Jeep | Wrangler | \$1,000 |
| 1987 | Acura | Legend | \$200 |
| 1991 | Jeep | Wrangler | \$1,200 |
| 1990 | Chevy | Beretta | \$750 |

For more information about any of the above vehicles, call the Auto Skills Center at 254-7675.

Ongoing

Wings-to-Go Platter — This is the last week to place your order for this Staff NCO special featuring 50 delicious hot wings with bleu cheese dressing and celery.

Pick up your platter on Super Bowl Sunday from 8 to 11 a.m. Cost is \$25.95 for members and \$29.95 for non-members.

To order or for information, call the Staff NCO Club at 254-5481.

Fix it Yourself — Want to do a little work on your prized vehicle but don’t

have the space or tools to get the job done? Cruise on over to the Auto Skills Center located at Building 3097, next to the 24-hour car wash, and utilize their tools to get your baby back in top form.

Certified Hawaii Safety inspections are also available weekdays from noon to 6 p.m. and weekends and holidays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Call 254-7674 for more information.

Entertainment Books — The 2005 Entertainment Books with great discounts on all of your favorite activities and restaurants in Hawaii is on sale now. The books cost \$30 and make great gifts.

For more details, call Information, Tickets and Tours at 254-7563.

Mega Video — Check out these weekly rental specials.

Monday — Rent one new release, get one category movie free.

Tuesday — Rent a video game at regular price, and rent a second one for \$2.50.

Wednesday — Rent three new releases, VHS or DVD, receive an extra day rental.

Thursday — Rent one DVD at the regular price; rent the second one for \$1.75. This includes new releases.

Friday — Rent family and children’s movies for 75 cents. Sorry, no new releases.

Saturday — Rent any basic stock movie, no new releases, for regular price and rent the second stock movie for \$1.25.

Sunday — Rent any Sunday Special movie for \$1. Each week is a different section. See store calendar for selected section.

Swing Lessons — Kahuna’s Ballroom will teach you how to dance. Every Monday, swing dance lessons will be taught from 7 to 9 p.m. The cost is only \$2, so grab a partner and get ready to twist, twirl and spin the night away.

For more information, call Kahuna’s Bar & Grill at 254-7660.

Salsa Lessons — Impress her with your fancy foot and hip action. Take a few salsa lessons at Kahuna’s Ballroom every Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m., and you will be set to hit the town. Lessons are \$2.

For more information, call Kahuna’s Bar & Grill at 254-7660.

Mongolian Barbecue — Don’t feel like cooking dinner? Every Wednesday and Friday night, head out to The Officers’ Club for Mongolian Barbecue and leave the work to the professionals.

Dinner is buffet style. Select your favorite veggies and meat, including chicken, shrimp, pork and beef. Pile your bowl high, and kick it up a

notch with a sauce of your choice, then watch the grill masters flip, sauté and grill your dinner to perfection.

Mongolian Barbecue is served every Wednesday and Friday at 5:30 p.m. For more details, call 254-7649.

Tradewind Travel — If travel is in your future, look to Tradewind Travel to book your next trip. Located in Mokapu Mall, Tradewind Travel can arrange mainland flights, inter-island packages, Norwegian Cruise Line packages, and, most recently, a five-night Sydney, Australia package.

Tradewind Travel is open Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more details, call 254-7413.

ASYMCA Playmornings — Children and parents are all invited to come have fun at the Armed Services YMCA “Playmornings.” Spend quality time with your children and get to know other families aboard the base. Playmornings is a facilitated parent-child program to encourage bonding within and amongst families.

Enjoy crafts, games, songs and fun at various locations across the base. The program runs Mondays through Fridays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the following locations: Mondays at Hale Koa Beach, Tuesdays at the Youth Activities Building 5082, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Super Playground and Thursdays at Connor Loop Playground. In case of inclement weather, head to the Armed Services YMCA at Building 1638.

For more details, call 254-4719.

Looking for a Job? — Marine Corps Community Services employs more than 850 employees in retail, food and hospitality; fitness; child and youth activities; water safety; logistics and administration. Stop by the MCCS Personnel office, located in Building 219. Get a job or career that suits your skills, schedule and style.

For more details, call 254-7619 or visit www.mccshawaii.com/jobslistings.html.

Family Child Care — Family Child Care is a home-setting, child care service provider operated by MCCS Personal Services with certified providers trained in child development, nutrition, guidance and more.

Family Child Care provides a flexible schedule including evenings, weekends, and overnight care. To find a Family Child Care Provider, call the Children, Youth and Teen Program at 257-7430. To become a Family Child Care Provider at MCB Hawaii, call FCC at 257-7030.

SM&SP

SINGLE MARINE & SAILOR PROGRAM

All events are open to unaccompanied E-5 and below who are active duty Marines or Sailors. The SM&SP Office is located in Building 1629, inside the Kahuna’s Recreation Center. Get more details on activities at [www.MCCS Hawaii.com](http://www.MCCS.Hawaii.com) under the “Semper Fitness” icon, or call 254-7593.

Upcoming Events

SM&SP Deep-Sea Fishing Adventure: Spend the day beyond the bay, fishing with the Single Marine & Sailor Program. This open-water adventure costs only \$75 per person and includes boating fees, all the fishing equipment, and lunch. Space is limited to 10 people, so register now at the Semper Fit Office. The excursion kicks off at 6:30 a.m., and runs until 3 p.m.

Paintball Tournament: Practice now, because the SM&SP will be hosting a paintball tournament in March. Call the SM&SP for details.

Volunteer Events

Looking for free entrance to the Pro Bowl? The SM&SP can help. Volunteer for Hawaii’s biggest Bowl with the SM&SP.

MOVIE TIME

***Prices:** Adults 12 and older, \$3; children 6 to 11, \$1.50 and children 5 and younger, free. Matinee prices are \$2 for adults, \$1 for children. Parents must purchase tickets for R-rated movies in person at the box office for children 16-years-old and younger. Sunday evenings, the price is \$1 for all patrons. Show your ID card at the box office.*

Call 254-7642 for recorded information.

***Sneak Preview Policy:** One hour and 45 minutes prior to the movie, tickets will be issued to first priority patrons waiting in line, then second and third priority patrons.*

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Spanglish (PG-13) | Today at 7:15 p.m. |
| Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (PG) | Today at 9:45 p.m. |
| Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (PG) | Saturday at 7:15 p.m. |
| Flight of the Phoenix (PG-13) | Saturday at 9:45 p.m. |
| Ocean's Twelve (PG-13) | Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. |
| Spanglish (PG-13) | Sunday at 2 p.m. |
| Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (PG) | Sunday at 6:30 p.m. |
| Spanglish (PG-13) | Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. |
| Meet the Fockers (PG-13) | Friday at 7:15 p.m. |
| Life Aquatic (R) | Friday at 9:45 p.m. |

Rodeo steers children straight

Bicycle course teaches safety, improves riding skills

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee
Combat Correspondent

The Provost Marshal's Office and the Base Safety Center conducted a Bicycle Rodeo, Saturday, to provide free bicycle safety inspections and additional riding instruction to chil-



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee
Travis Walker, safety specialist with the Base Safety Center, instructs Brandon Gonzalez, a kindergartner at Mokapu Elementary School, before beginning the course. Gonzalez, learning how to ride a bicycle for the first time, was excited to conquer the course.

dren of Mokapu Elementary School and their parents.

A safety specialist from the Base Safety Center explained that their intent was to teach the children about bicycle safety, base regulations, and to ensure they know how to respond to traffic signals.

"We noticed children riding to school and around base, not paying attention to safety, so we decided to conduct this rodeo to increase the awareness of safety," said Maria Giovanetty.

When children arrived at the rodeo, their bicycles were inspected for safety by a PMO representative to ensure the children and their bicycles met all legal and safety requirements.

"Bicycles, on base, are required to follow the same rules as cars," said Cpl. Nate J. DeWeerd, physical security specialist with PMO. "If children are not following the regulations, they can be given tickets or Minor Offense Reports. This course gives children more confidence on a bicycle, as well as more assurance for their knowledge of traffic procedures."

The cone-lined course started when children approached a simulated traffic light. DeWeerd chose which light to display to the children, and they had to make the appropriate response in order to continue the course. Then, several steering tests challenged the children's ability to shift balance while changing directions and their ability to ride in a straight line.

After the steering course, the children approached the braking and "Turtle Speed" areas that tested the child's ability to stop and ride at slower speeds.

"The course was kind of hard," said J.C. Giovanetty, an 11-year-old, fifth-grade student at Mokapu Elementary. "The zigzag part was tough, because it makes you go all over the



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee
Mike Gonzalez, an 8-year-old, navigates the beginning portion of the Bicycle Rodeo cone-lined course at Mokapu Elementary School, Saturday.

place. But after doing the whole thing, I realized that there were some things I didn't know, and now I can be safer on base."

To reinforce the importance of bicycle safety, the Base Safety Center and PMO try to ensure that a Bicycle Rodeo is conducted at least twice per year.

"We usually run one of these in August or September, also right after school starts," said Maria, a native of Chile. "The children enjoy these events, and we really feel that it makes a difference."

After completing the course, children receive

a certificate of completion and coupons to a few local businesses on base. After Saturday's Rodeo, the children who participated rode away with certificates in hand and a better understanding of how to keep safe while riding on base.

"I thought the course was fun, and I definitely learned a lot about traffic signals and what to do," said Mike Gonzalez, an 8-year-old, third grader at Mokapu Elementary. "My brother is just learning how to ride a bike, and I think it's a good thing for him to do this course while he is just learning. I'll make sure we both stay safe."

American Airlines extends military discounts

Airline shows appreciation by continuing discounted fares

Lance Cpl. Bernadette L. Ainsworth

U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific

American Airlines extended several special offers available exclusively for active duty military members, Jan. 12.

The special fares offered through American Airlines are extended through June 5. These special fares are available to active duty members of the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, National Guard and reserves who are on leave. They

are also available to their spouses and dependent children, according to a United States Marine Corps press release.

In addition to lower fares, American is reducing the minimum stay requirement on its discounted military fares.

These military fares are available for travel to domestic and various international destinations. Travel to Europe, Latin America and Japan have discounted fares until May 31.

Travel arrangements can be made at American Airlines ticketing loca-

tions or over the phone, but are not available on the Internet.

Military identification is required when checking in for a flight.

Along with these special fares, American is also inviting uniformed military personnel to pre-board with first class passengers, or at any time during the boarding process.

In addition, American Airlines is inviting military men and women, participating in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, to be their guests at the "Admirals Club." The club has facilities worldwide, and can be visit-

ed between flights while on emergency or Rest and Relaxation leave from overseas duties. This is only available through June 5 at airports that do not have United States Organizations facilities.

Advanced purchase requirements do not apply to these special fares; however, ticketing must occur within seven days of making reservations.

Fares are non-refundable and non-transferable. Changes to a ticket may be made if the reservation is cancelled before the original departure time, meets the requirements of the new fare, and any difference in the fare is paid.

Unused tickets are valid for one year from the date of issue of the original ticket.

"American Airlines is committed to our military members," said Tim Wagner, an American Airlines spokesman. According to Wagner, American Airlines felt the impact of national and international issues after Sept. 11, so they are doing anything they can for members of the military who are protecting the country.

To make reservations for travel with American Airlines, call the reservations office at (800) 433-7300 or visit any American Airlines ticketing location.

MARFORPAC aims to reduce accidents

Campaign launched to educate drivers, save lives

Lance Cpl. Bernadette L. Ainsworth
Marine Forces Pacific

U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii — U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific is implementing a Drive Safe Campaign from Feb. 1 to May 31.

The Drive Safe Campaign is focusing on motorcycle, tactical and privately owned motor vehicle mishaps. The goal of the campaign is to educate Marines and Sailors on the rules and regulations they must follow when operating any of these vehicles.

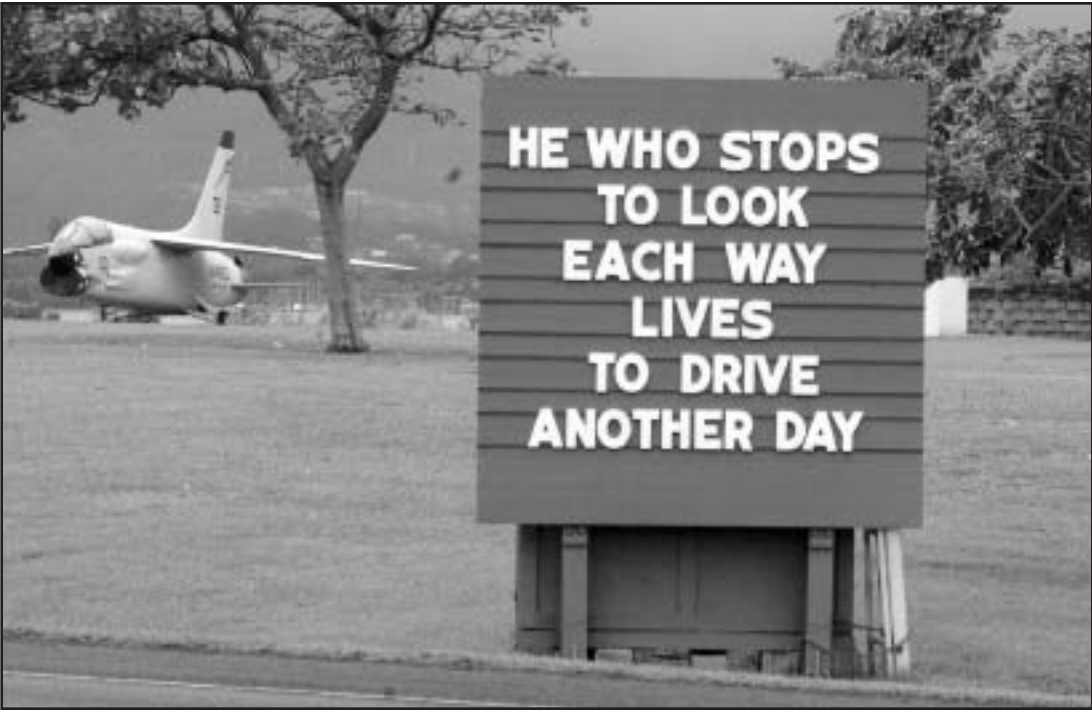
Lt. Col. Philip E. Grathwol, force safety officer said the purpose of the campaign is to save lives since motor vehicle mishaps are the largest producer of non-combat fatalities in MARFORPAC.

The total number of vehicle-related fatalities last year was 35 — about the size of a platoon. Fifteen of those mishaps involved tactical vehicle, four involved motorcycles and 16 involved privately owned motor vehicles.

To reduce the number of vehicle-related accidents, the command will be putting posters around bases, conducting driver safety classes during safety stand-downs and sending safety-grams over the message boards.

“The idea is to promote safe driving and reach out to younger Marines, between the ages of 18 to 24,” said Grathwol. “Seventy percent of motor vehicle mishaps are Marines between those ages.”

The goal for the campaign this year is to reduce the number of mishaps by half of what



The Base Safety Center here uses a marquee to educate and remind drivers to operate their vehicles in a safe manner. Safety Technician Julie Brumm, selects a new message, twice a week, to remind everyone that “Safety is a choice and [people] can actually protect their own future.”

they were last year.

Small-unit leaders will reiterate measures that need to be taken before driving a tactical vehicle, to reduce accidents.

“You get a convoy brief before going on any convoy,” said Cpl. Michael Ricks, motor transport dispatcher. “In the briefs, the convoy commander gives you the to dos and the not to dos, tells you where you’re going and gives you a map of how to get there.”

Only roadworthy and properly inspected

vehicles will be allowed on the road. Convoy briefs must be utilized and should identify risk alleviation actions and ensure the maximum usage of seat belts. Also, additional driver training must be established to focus on particular tactical vehicle limitations and capabilities.

“All tactical vehicles have seat belts in the front and most have them in the back,” said Ricks. “The five-ton and the seven-ton don’t have seat belts in the back, where the troops

Help filing taxes can be found on base and online

MyPay users can get help to file taxes quickly, efficiently and electronically, for quicker refunds

Capt. USNR Bill Hendrix
LIFELines.navy.mil/LIFELines.usmc.mil

Ah. Tax Time. You’re soooo ready for the IRS this year. You load your personal tax computing software — CD version, the gold addition — all the bells and whistles. Within seconds you’re entering data into Form 1040.

First things first. Software says, “Supply all your personal information for yourself, your wife and your children.”

Honey, what’s Anna Belle’s Social Security number?

The software says, “Anna Belle probably was enrolled in Social Security at the hospital when she was born. If you have still not received your child’s social security number, you may wish to call the IRS at 1-800-772-1213.”

Ok. Done with that.

Software now says, “Please Load Your W-2s for all of your jobs, full and part-time, for yourself and your spouse — if you are filing jointly.”

Hmmm. I had those darn things somewhere. They’re in that big tax box. Honey, where’s the big tax box? You know, where we throw all the tax related stuff.

Two hours later, after finding the Big Tax Box and sifting through relevant and mostly

irrelevant paper, you come to the gut-wrenching discovery that you do not have all of your W-2s. Stop crying, yelling, and kicking the dog Spike. The Defense Accounting and Finance Agency has you covered — IF you’re a myPay user.

According to DFAS, if you are a current user — that means you have a Personal Identification Number — you have consented, whether you knew it or not, to receive your military W-2 electronically. Just print it out and start entering information. Or you may request a hard copy by “snail-mail.” That means you’re going to have to wait a couple of weeks before finishing your filing.

Department of Defense civilian employees, who use myPay, don’t automatically get the electronic W-2s; however, they may request them and a hard copy.

In order to protect you from any W-2 mistakes, DFAS will impose a no-change period from Dec. 1 to Jan. 31 of each tax season. But, you can still get a paper version of your W-2, as before, by contacting your local Personnel Support Detachment.

MCB Hawaii
Tax Center
opens. See A-3.

Avoid painful, last-minute tax filing by preparing ahead of time or even using a tax professional

Perry Lockhart
LIFELines.navy.mil/LIFELines.usmc.mil

Just as April 15 is ingrained in every adult American’s mind as Uncle Sam’s payday — Jan. 31 is the day when taxpayers expect to get W-2s to begin the process of preparing their taxes. While Uncle Sam wouldn’t mind an early payday, and even encourages it by sending out tax forms in January every year, millions of Americans wait until the last minute to file.

Last-minute tax preparation becomes particularly stressful if you’re not sure what you need to do to file. Scrambling for W-2 statements, finding receipts, even locating the right form can cause you to miss Uncle Sam’s payday, and “he” will penalize you for it.

If you want to avoid the panic of April 15, start now. With computer software, tax processing companies, and online e-filing, last-minute tax submission is not necessary. Filing should be stress-free and even uneventful. Here are some tips to help you make Uncle Sam’s payday less painful.

Make sure your records are in order. Find and file W-2s, 1099s, 1098s, K-1s, and all

sit.”

Although some seats do not have belts, all belts available should be used.

Motorcycle accidents are also a contributing factor to the number of mishaps throughout MARFORPAC.

To decrease motorcycle accidents and fatalities, commanders and small-unit leaders need to know which members of their unit rides a motorcycle. Also, an environment needs to be created in which the unconditioned response of Marines and Sailors is to wear proper motorcycle protective gear, drive at or below the speed limit and to properly adjust to adverse driving conditions.

“Motorcycle safety is so important at MARFORPAC. It’s important that all of our people come home safely,” said Maj. Troy V. Wright, deputy provost Marshal. “We don’t need to have Marines needlessly injured in a motorcycle accident.”

To reduce privately owned motor vehicle accidents, the command is creating awareness of the poor-decision making that is largely involved with motor vehicle mishaps. The command is also introducing the use of operational risk management during leave and liberty in addition to reiterating the need for seat belts.

Driver safety cannot be overstated.

The number one cause of fatalities is fatigue when driving at night, the second is driving at an excessive speed and the third is consumption of alcohol prior to driving.

“The factors causing motor vehicle accidents are staggering,” said Grathwol.

“So many Marines are killed on the highways,” Grathwol emphasized. “If we could just get people to do the right thing, buckle up and drive safe at night, we could save a lot of lives.”

other relevant receipts and documents. These documents are the basis for your tax return. You can’t file without them.

If you aren’t comfortable with figuring out and filing your own return, consider using a tax professional. Almost every military installation has a tax center that can help you file. Most are free. Professional tax preparers also will be up-to-date on the ever-changing tax laws, to ensure an error-free return.

Double-check your return. Check your math and all social security numbers — to avoid the two most common mistakes made, according to the IRS. Also, make sure you sign your return and attach all necessary forms and schedules before mailing it. Make a copy of everything for yourself and file it in a safe place.

Try e-filing. Through this avenue, your return gets processed quickly. Your refund will be deposited electronically in a matter of days, as opposed to a paper-filed return, where the refund may not arrive for several weeks or a few months.

When all else fails, request an extension. By filing IRS Form 4868, you can get an automatic extension to Aug. 15. Your request must be mailed or phoned in by midnight,

See *FILING, B-5*

See *PREPARING, B-5*

Tax season returns

Military W-2s now display tax-credit eligibility

Press Release

American Forces Press Service

The 2004 W-2 forms for military members will now report pay earned while serving in tax-exclusion areas.

This information will allow members to better determine their eligibility for two credits to their federal income tax payments, the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit, officials said.

The combat-zone pay information will be listed separately in block 14 of the member's W-2 form and will not be included with taxable wage information.

EITC and CTC qualifications are based on gross income, which includes pay earned while in a tax-exclusion area. The addition of this information on 2004 W-2s will help determine whether a member meets the IRS requirements for EITC and CTC and which method of computing taxes is most advantageous to each member's individual situation.

The 2004 W-2s are now available, and service members may access them on the Defense Finance and Accounting Service's on-line "myPay" system.

Officials recommend service members contact their unit tax advisors for more information on the EITC, CTC, or other tax issues.

PREPARING, From B-4

When you retire, instead of a W-2, you need a Form 1099 to report your income. DFAS will take care of that, too, for military personnel on the myPay Web site. Civilian DoD Employees will get their 1099s from the Office of Personnel Management.

Now, how about those part-time jobs and those W-2s?

Software says, "Do you have any more W-2s? Would you like to save this file until you find them?"

Too bad your other employers don't have a myPay program to deliver your W-2s electronically. Maybe next year. Good luck with your taxes.

FILING, From B-4

April 15. Filing Form 4868 is an extension of time to file only, not to pay. You should estimate your tax liability and send in a check for the anticipated balance due with the extension to avoid additional penalties and interest.

If you are serving or have served in a combat zone, you have extra time to file your claim. Generally, you have 180 days after your last day in the combat zone to file, without penalty.

If you need help preparing your tax return, contact the IRS. They can be reached 24/7 at (808) 829-1040 or on their Web site at www.irs.gov.

Comparing will yield the best mortgage deal

Holly Selders

LIFELines.navy.mil/LIFELines.usmc.mil

Buying a mortgage isn't much different from buying a can of soup. Think of a mortgage as a thing you can hold in your hand. When you compare cans of soup at the Commissary, you compare the size, the taste, and maybe look at the ingredients. So, do the same thing with mortgages — the three primary ingredients to look for are: rates, fees, and service.



market can flip either way, costing you a great lock-in opportunity.

You can almost always negotiate discount points. Lenders publish their quotes for the day in-house. That's the price the loan officer is supposed to sell to make a basic commission. You probably won't be allowed to see the rate sheet, but ask. Loan officers are paid "overage" on the excess discount points the borrower pays. It's both fair and civilized to ask the loan officer how they are compensated.

Try calling around before you lock in. You want the mortgage companies to be competing for your business, so let them know what kind of deal their competitors are offering you and ask if they can beat it.

Check out the Federal Trade Commission's online guide, Looking for the BEST Mortgages, at www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/pubs/homes/bestmortg.htm, for more condensed information on different types of loans and rates. You pay for the rate you buy, so a "zero points" loan means you are buying a higher interest rate, or not paying for a lower interest rate.

Negotiate Those Fees

Fees are also negotiable. Veterans Administration loans, available at www.home

See MORTGAGE, B-7

ON THE MENU AT ANDERSON HALL

Friday

Lunch
Beef Balls Stroganoff
Baked Fish Fillet
Macaroni & Cheese
Garlic Roasted Potato
Wedges
Mixed Vegetables
Raisin Drop Cookies
Fruit Pies

Dinner
Ground Beef Tacos
Chicken Enchiladas
Chili Conquistador
Burritos
Refried Beans
Mexican Rice
Raisin Drop Cookies
Fruit Pies

*Specialty Bar
(Lunch and Dinner)*
Pasta Bar

Saturday

Brunch/Dinner
Roast Turkey
Chicken Cordon Bleu
Mashed Potatoes
Boiled Egg Noodles
Spice Cake w/
Lemon Cream Frosting
Sugar Cookies
Fruit Pies

Sunday

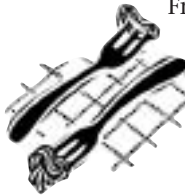
Brunch/Dinner
Swiss Steak w/
Mushroom Gravy
Glazed Rock Cornish Hens
Rice Pilaf
Mashed Potatoes
Southern Style Green Beans
Yellow Cake w/
Butter Cream Frosting

Monday

Lunch
Beef Stew
Baked Fish Fillets
Baked Macaroni and Cheese
Steamed Rice
French Fried Okra
Oatmeal Cookies
Fruit Pies

Dinner
Italian Veal Steaks
Braised Pork Chops, Bone-In
O'Brien Potatoes
Steamed Rice
Peas w/Onions
Oatmeal Cookies
Fruit Pies

*Specialty Bar
(Lunch and Dinner)*
Pasta Bar



Tuesday

Lunch
Chicken Parmesan
Cajun Fish Fillet
Steamed Rice
Boiled Egg Noodles
Simmered Asparagus
Oatmeal Raisin Cookies
Fruit Pies

Dinner
Southern Fried Chicken
Beef Balls Stroganoff
Parsley Butter Potatoes
Boiled Egg Noodles
Simmered Pinto Beans
Oatmeal Raisin Cookies
Fruit Pies

*Specialty Bar
(Lunch and Dinner)*
Taco Bar

Wednesday

Lunch
Chili Macaroni
Roast Turkey
Grilled Cheese Sandwich
Mashed Potatoes
Glazed Carrots
Brownies
Fruit Pies

Dinner
Meat Loaf
Pork Ham Roast
Mashed Potatoes
Tossed Green Rice
Cauliflower Combo
Brownies
Fruit Pies

*Specialty Bar
(Lunch and Dinner)*
Country Bar

Thursday

Lunch
Salisbury Steak
Barbecue Chicken
Rice Pilaf
Oven Brownd Potatoes
Corn on the Cob
White Cake w/
Lemon Cream Frosting
Fruit Pies

Dinner
Beef Yakisoba
Orange Chicken
Fried Rice
Steamed Rice
Fried Cabbage w/Bacon
White Cake w/
Lemon Cream Frosting
Fruit Pies

*Specialty Bar
(Lunch and Dinner)*
Taco Bar

Word to Pass

Mail-in Registration Deadline for Great Aloha Run Arrives

Don't let another day pass without registering for this year's Great Aloha Run! Mail-in entry forms must be completed and postmarked by today, and include a late registration "donation" fee of \$30 for individual runners and \$18 for keiki under 12 and seniors 65 and older. Great Aloha Run official entry forms postmarked after today will not be accepted. The 21st annual 8.15-mile "fun run" is set for Presidents' Day, Feb. 21, with the start line located at Aloha Tower Marketplace.

Held annually, the Great Aloha Run is an 8.15-mile "fun run" from Aloha Tower Marketplace in downtown Honolulu to the Aloha Stadium.

"We strongly encourage the public to register for this year's Great Aloha Run," said Carole Kai Onouye, Great Aloha Run co-founder. "The proceeds raised from the race benefit a wonderful cause — Hawaii's numerous charity organizations that need our support. Not to mention there are a number of family-fun activities surrounding the race itself, something for everyone — keiki to kapuna. We'll see you there!"

For those who miss the mail-in registration deadline, there will be one last opportunity to register in person by visiting the Family Fitness Expo at the Neal Blaisdell Center on either Feb. 18, from 4 to 10 p.m.; Feb. 19, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; or Feb. 20, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The registration fee at this time is \$40 for individual entrants and \$18 for keiki under 12 and seniors 65 and older. Payments to be made in cash, only.

Applications are available on page 43 of Verizon's local telephone directory, Running Room, Runners HI, Runners Route, Sports Authority, Tesoro Gas Stations and all health and fitness centers. Visit www.GreatAlohaRun.com for additional race information or to register online.

Public Invited to Photo Documentary of Landmines

Shot in the Siem Reap and Battambang Provinces of Cambodia, Hugh E. Gentry's photo documentary, "Landmines, Remnants of War," focuses on children injured by landmines and a former Khmer Rouge soldier who deactivates them.

For many generations, the innocent still live with the legacy of war. There are an estimated six to 10 million landmines left in Cambodia today. Hugh's images tell a moving story of the mission of a few dedicated people to discover, educate, and deactivate these landmines.

The exhibition opens today at Soullenz on 186 N. King St., upstairs, by River Street, from 6 to 8 p.m. and will run through the end of the month. Gallery hours are Wednesdays, from 6 to 8 p.m.; and Thursdays and Fridays, from 11 to 2 p.m.

For more information, e-mail Lela or Hugh Gentry at gentrypro@earthlink.net or call 371-8436.

National Prayer Breakfast Scheduled

The National Prayer Breakfast will be held on Feb. 24 at the Anderson Dining Facility, Building 1089. MCB Hawaii Deputy Commander, Col. Richard Roten, will be the guest speaker. The program will begin at 6:30 a.m.

Desert Storm Veterans to Hold Ceremony and Reunion Dinner

The VII Corps Desert Storm Veterans Association will hold its 14th Annual Memorial Ceremony and Reunion Dinner at the Officers' Club at Fort Myer, Va., on Feb. 26, beginning at 5 p.m. with a Chapel service, followed by the dinner at 7:30 p.m.

The cost is \$50. Reservations are required. Payments are made payable to VII Corps Desert Storm Veterans Association and mailed to VII Corps SDVA (Attn: Dinner), 2425 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Va. 22201. RSVP no later than Feb. 16.

For more information, call Hoa McNabb at (800) 506-2672 or (703) 522-7901, or VIICorpsDSVA@aol.com. The attire for the ceremony and dinner is civilian attire.

Hawaii Military Appreciation Month Nominees Sought

After working a full day on your ship, flight line, firing range or helicopter, do you put on your civilian clothes and head downtown to help



The Odyssey

others? Do you serve hot meals to Hawaii's homeless, or spend your weekends being a Big Brother or Big Sister, or climb on a roof to pound nails for Habitat for Humanity, or deliver meals for Meals-on-Wheels to Honolulu's elderly, or do you know any of your fellow service members who do?

In order to recognize military community service volunteers for their community volunteer work and for, in addition to their normal military duties, giving back to the community in service to youth groups, sports leagues, churches, schools and social agencies, there will be a special luncheon, set for May 19.

The Hawaii business community, together with the Chamber of Commerce and Military Affairs Council, sponsors a series of annual events to recognize these special U.S. service members here.

First Hawaiian Bank and Alexander & Baldwin, co-sponsors of the luncheon, are soliciting nominations for recognition from non-profit organizations and also from the different military installations here. The sponsors will select a service member to represent their respective service to receive recognition.

If you wish to be nominated or know someone who fits the criteria, please contact your command's senior enlist-ed advisor or check with your base Public Affairs Office.

Nomination forms are available at your base Public Affairs Office and must be endorsed by your command. Completed nomination forms are due to U.S. Pacific Command, Office of Community Relations (J01PA), no later than March 1.

If you have any questions, contact Dennis Fujii, U.S. Pacific Command, Community Relations, at 477-6282.

Classical Greek Adventure Story Adapted for Children

The University of Hawaii at Manoa's Department of Theatre and Dance presents "The Odyssey," a 50-minute rendition of Homer's epic masterwork created especially

for children and teens, directed by M.F.A. Youth Theatre Directing candidate Colette "Coco" Wiel. This dramatization of the classic Greek tale, written by Gregory Falls and Kurt Beattie, covers the fanciful adventure of Odysseus' journey home from the Trojan War. Kennedy Theatre's upcoming production enacts the journey using colorful and spectral masks, life-size and giant puppets, theatrical effects, song and mime.

"The Odyssey" will be performed in the Kennedy Theatre Earle Ernst Lab Theatre on Feb. 18 and 19 at 7 p.m. with a Saturday matinee at 4 p.m. on Feb. 19 and a final matinee on Feb. 20 at 2 p.m. A post-show rap follows the evening performance on Feb. 19. The show is recommended for children eight years and older — due to spooky scenes.

This versatile and fast-paced play features Odysseus' encounters with the man-eating one-eyed Cyclops, the bewitching singing Sirens, the sorceress Circe, King Aeolous, the mischievous trickster god Hermes and many other colorful characters.

Tickets for "The Odyssey" go on sale Feb.14. Prices are \$10 for general admission, \$8 seniors, military,

University of Hawaii faculty and staff, non-UHM students, \$3 UHM students with validated Spring 2005 UHM ID. Tickets may be charged-by-phone at 956-7655 (voice/text) or purchased at the Kennedy Theatre Box Office Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A \$2 service charge will be applied to all charge-by-phone sales. For more information or disability access, call the Kennedy Theatre Box Office at 956-7655 (voice/text).

TSA Posts Air Travel Alert

The Transportation Security Administration has put out a security directive pertaining to military passengers, according to Security Directive 1544-01-10w, access to sterile concourse for non-traveling individuals, will be as follows:

- Military passenger family members may be given a pass so that they can escort the military passenger to the gate or to meet a military passenger's inbound arrival at the gate.

- Military family members can go to the airline that the military member is flying on and receive a pass to go to the gate. However, a pass and a photo ID will be required to get pass the security checkpoint.

This is an especially wonderful change for military personnel on leave from Afghanistan or Iraq. It will be a better welcome home for them when they get off the airplane and see their family at the gate and will be able to stay with family longer before having to leave.

Cartooning Classes Offered for Children

Jeff Pagay will teach basics of building cartoon characters at the gallery. Classes will be held at the Windward Mall's Tradewinds Gallery Thursdays from 4 to 5:30 p.m., for ages 8 to 12. Three lessons will be given March 10, 17 and 24. Classes are \$60. Registrations are now being taken.

For more information call 218-3640 or e-mail hicom02@aol.com.

Tradewinds Gallery to Show Cardenas Watercolors

The gallery will feature Watercolors by Susan Cardenas throughout the month of February.

For more information, call 236-0343.